

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px;"></div>	25X1
SUBJECT	Membership, Elections, and Training in the ZMP	DATE DISTR.	6 May 1953	
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Officially, the youth is not compelled to join the ZMP (Union of Polish Youth) but, in practice, the vast majority do join or else they find themselves hampered in their studies and unable to obtain promotion to higher schools. It is quite exceptional to be admitted to a university without belonging to the ZMP, the rare exceptions being students who are either extremely gifted or who enjoy the backing of highly placed persons. Even if they are successful, the students are obliged subsequently to join the Polish University Student's Association (Z.A.M.P.)
2. Young people who are not ZMP members find it very difficult to obtain employment; jobs are first offered to members of the association.
3. ZMP meetings take place twice a month and elections to the association's board, once a year. During the elections stress is laid chiefly on the social origin of the candidates. At election meetings each candidate for the board is obliged to give an account of his life and to submit to a barrage of questions from the audience. At the end he is also asked the following questions by the SP (Service to Poland) representative or the district ZMP representative:
 - a. Attitude towards religion.
 - b. Is any member of his family resident abroad.
 - c. Did any member of the family belong to the Home Army (A.K.), National Armed Forces (N.S.Z.) or similar underground organizations during or after the war.
 - d. Was any member of the family a professional member of the pre-1939 army, police or gendarmes.
 - e. Did any member of the family belong to the Second Bureau before 1939.
4. The answer to the first question is unimportant, but if the answers to the subsequent questions are affirmative, the candidate is rejected. The voting is secret.
5. In contrast to the elections to ZMP circle boards, at elections to the municipal and district boards the chairmen and certain other officials are nominated in

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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advance by the Party. It is also a practice in ZMP circles for an SP or ZMP district representative to have a talk, before the election meeting, with the more active members of the circle, asking them to propose candidates. Such conversations are held individually.

- 6.. The tasks of the ZMP are similar to those of the SP. Political training takes place in rural and municipal ZMP circles. The level of training is much lower than that in the Party, which is in keeping with the status of the ZMP as a preparatory school for the Party. The association has recently introduced the appellation "comrade".
7. Ideological training is compulsory for all government employees, regardless of whether they belong to the Party or not. The lectures take place once a week. The penalty for non-attendance is dismissal from the Party or ZMP, which is synonymous with loss of employment. The lectures vary in length from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours and employees, having gone to work at 7:30 a.m. frequently are not able to return home until 10 p.m.
8. The introductory course of lectures consists of: lectures on all forms of social systems; medieval Polish history from the Marxian point of view; and discussion of current political problems. The second course consists of lectures on the Socialist system, underlining the well-being of people living under such a system, contrasted with the lot of people in capitalist countries. The course includes the discussion of speeches of political leaders and current economic measures.
9. In larger production centers the training is intended only for higher officials and Party members. Some of the latter, mainly workers, disregard the training and shirk the lectures.
10. Historical facts quoted in the lectures are completely misrepresented. For instance the history of the "Miracle on the Vistula"¹ is represented as a brilliant maneuver by Stalin aimed at forcing the Polish armies which were fighting in Russia to withdraw to Poland, after which the Red Army voluntarily returned to Russia.
1. Comment: In August 1922, the Polish Army repulsed the invading Red Army which had reached the Vistula.

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